

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7 and 9-24 are pending in the present application. Claim 2 has been canceled, Claims 3 and 16 have been amended, and Claims 21-24 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hirose; Claims 6-7 and 9-20 were allowed; and Claims 3-5 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form and Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 2 as noted in the outstanding Office Action is moot.

In addition, new Claims 21-24 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and are similar to original Claims 2-5 but depend either directly or indirectly on Claim 9.

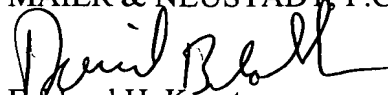
Claim 16 has also been amended to correct a minor cosmetic informality.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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